Al flights to European countries

2076. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had stopped its flights to some European countries and other destinations in Australia and Korea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to resume the flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Air India stopped its operations to: (i) Perth (effective 24 October, 1996); (ii) Seoul (28 March, 1999); (iii) Frankfurt (effective 29 April, 1999) and (iv) Rome and Manchester (effective 1 May, 1999). The discontinuation of flights to above stations was part of the route rationalisation exercise with the objective of deployment of capacity on more profitable routes and weeding out non-profitable routes.

(c) Air India plans to operate to Frankfurt later during the current year. However, this will be based on the financial viability of the operations.

Flights from Bangalore to major cities of Karnataka

2077. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any requests to operate Indian Airlines/private airlines to link major cities of Karnataka with Bangalore;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any study of the air traffic potential in the region; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has agreed to start air operations of Indian Airlines from Bangalore to the other major cities of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) At present, only Managalore is